

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for using parental controls, the method comprising:
storing parental control information on a user device;
receiving a request from the user device to access a destination over a
communications network;
5 using the parental control information stored on the user device to determine
whether to grant the request from the user device;
allowing the user device access to the destination when the parental control
information indicates that the request should be allowed;
denying the user device access to the destination when the parental control
10 information indicates that the request should be denied;
storing on a remote device information that is related to the parental control
information stored on the user device; and
verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the
information stored on the remote device.

15 2. The method as in claim 1 wherein the information stored on the remote
device includes a checksum of a version of the parental control information stored on the
user device and verifying the parental control information stored on the user device
includes verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the
20 checksum stored on the remote device.

3. The method as in claim 1 wherein the information stored on the remote
device includes a copy of a version of the parental control information stored on the user
device and verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes
25 verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the copy of the
parental control information stored on the remote device.

4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the information stored on the remote
device includes a checksum and a copy of the parental control information stored on the
30 user device and verifying the parental control information stored on the user device

includes verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the checksum or the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

5 5. The method as in claim 1 wherein verifying the parental control
information stored on the user device includes using the information stored on the remote
device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device
has changed.

10 6. The method as in claim 5 wherein using the information stored on the
remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user
device has changed comprises doing so periodically.

15 7. The method as in claim 5 wherein using the information stored on the
remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user
device has comprises doing so based on an occurrence of an event.

20 8. The method as in claim 3 wherein:
the parental control information stored on the user device includes a checksum
computed from the version of the parental control information stored on the user device
for the parental controls, and

verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes
comparing the checksum stored on the remote device with the checksum stored on the
user device,

25 the method further comprising, updating the parental control information stored
on the user device when the checksum stored on the user device does not match the
checksum stored on the remote device.

30 9. The method as in claim 8 further comprising sending a message to an
identity when the checksum generated from the version of the parental control
information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote
device.

10. The method as in claim 8 further comprising sending a message to a master user associated with an identity when the checksum generated from the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

11. The method as in claim 3 wherein verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes comparing the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device with the parental control information stored on the user device, the method further comprising:

when the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device, updating the parental control information stored on the user device.

12. The method as in claim 11 further comprising sending a message to an identity when the information relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

13. The method as in claim 11 further comprising sending a message to a master user associated with an identity when the information relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

14. The method as in claim 1 wherein the parental control information includes parental control information that is based on age-appropriateness of the content.

15. The method as in claim 1 wherein the parental control information is indicative of an identity that is signed into a user device.

16. The method as in claim 1 wherein the communications network includes the Internet.

17. The method as in claim 1 wherein the destination includes a web site.

5
18. A system for using parental controls, comprising:
means for storing parental control information on a user device;
means for receiving a request from the user device to access a destination over a communications network;
10 means for using the parental control information stored on the user device to determine whether to grant the request from the user device;
means for allowing the user device access to the destination when the parental control information indicates that the request should be allowed;
means for denying the user device access to the destination when the parental
15 control information indicates that the request should be denied;
means for storing on a remote device information that is related to the parental control information stored on the user device; and
means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the information stored on the remote device.

20
19. The system of claim 18 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a checksum of a version of the parental control information stored on the user device and the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes means for verifying the parental control information stored on the
25 user device using the checksum stored on the remote device.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a copy of a version of the parental control information stored on the user device and the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user
30 device includes means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a checksum and a copy of the parental control information stored on the user device and the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device using the checksum or the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes means for using the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the means for using the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed comprises doing so periodically.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein the means for using the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed comprises doing so based on an occurrence of an event.

25. The system of claim 20 wherein:

the parental control information stored on the user device includes a checksum computed from the version of the parental control information stored on the user device for the parental controls, and

the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes means for comparing the checksum stored on the remote device with the checksum stored on the user device, further comprising, means for updating the parental control information stored on the user device when the checksum stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

26. The system of claim 25 further comprising means for sending a message to an identity when the checksum generated from the version of the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

27. The system of claim 25 further comprising means for sending a message to a master user associated with an identity when the checksum generated from the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

28. The system of claim 20 wherein the means for verifying the parental control information stored on the user device includes means for comparing the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device with the parental control information stored on the user device, further comprising:

when the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device, means for updating the parental control information stored on the user device.

29. The system of claim 28 further comprising means for sending a message to an identity when the information relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

30. The system of claim 28 further comprising means for sending a message to a master user associated with an identity when the information relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

31. The system of claim 18 wherein the parental control information includes parental control information that is based on age-appropriateness of the content.

32. The system of claim 18 wherein the parental control information is indicative of an identity that is signed into a user device.

5 33. The system of claim 18 wherein the communications network includes the Internet.

34. The system of claim 18 wherein the destination includes a web site.

10 35. A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium or a propagated signal for using parental controls, comprising:

a user device storing code segment that causes a computer to store parental control information on a user device;

15 a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a request from the user device to access a destination over a communications network;

a using code segment that causes the computer to use the parental control information stored on the user device to determine whether to grant the request from the user device;

20 an access code segment that causes the computer to allow the user device access to the destination when the parental control information indicates that the request should be allowed;

a denial code segment that causes the computer to deny the user device access to the destination when the parental control information indicates that the request should be denied;

25 a remote device storing code segment that causes the computer to store on a remote device information that is related to the parental control information stored on the user device; and

a verifying code segment that causes the computer to verify the parental control information stored on the user device using the information stored on the remote device.

30

36. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a checksum of a version of the parental control information stored on the user device and the verifying code segment causes the computer to verify the parental control information stored on the user device using the checksum stored on the remote device.

37. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a copy of a version of the parental control information stored on the user device and the verifying code segment causes the computer to verify the parental control information stored on the user device using the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

38. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the information stored on the remote device includes a checksum and a copy of the parental control information stored on the user device and the verifying code segment causes the computer to verify the parental control information stored on the user device using the checksum or the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

39. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the verifying code segment causes the computer to use the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed.

40. The computer program of claim 39 wherein using the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed comprises doing so periodically.

41. The computer program of claim 39 wherein using the information stored on the remote device to determine whether the parental control information stored on the user device has changed comprises doing so based on an occurrence of an event.

42. The computer program of claim 37 wherein:

the parental control information stored on the user device includes a checksum computed from the version of the parental control information stored on the user device for the parental controls, and

the verifying code segment causes the computer to compare the checksum stored
5 on the remote device with the checksum stored on the user device,
further comprising, an updating code segment that causes the computer to update the parental control information stored on the user device when the checksum stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

10 43. The computer program of claim 42 further comprising a message code segment that causes the computer to send a message to an identity when the checksum generated from the version of the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

15 44. The computer program of claim 42 further comprising a message code segment that causes the computer to send a message to a master user associated with an identity when the checksum generated from the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the checksum stored on the remote device.

20 45. The computer program of claim 37 wherein the verifying code segment causes the computer to compare the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device with the parental control information stored on the user device, further comprising:

when the parental control information stored on the user device does not match
25 the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device, an updating code segment that causes the computer to update the parental control information stored on the user device.

30 46. The computer program of claim 45 further comprising a message code segment that causes the computer to send a message to an identity when the information

relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

47. The computer program of claim 45 further comprising a message code
5 segment that causes the computer to send a message to a master user associated with an identity when the information relating to the parental control information stored on the user device does not match the copy of the parental control information stored on the remote device.

10 48. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the parental control information includes parental control information that is based on age-appropriateness of the content.

15 49. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the parental control information is indicative of an identity that is signed into a user device.

50. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the communications network includes the Internet.

20 51. The computer program of claim 35 wherein the destination includes a web site.